

The Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance first appeared in the magazine *Youth's Companion* in September 1892. It was written by Frank Bellamy. It was first used in public schools on October 12, 1892 in celebration of the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America by Columbus.

The words of the Pledge have been changed twice. In 1923, the words “my

flag” were changed to “the flag of the United States of America.” The words “under God” were added in 1954 by an act of Congress.

The Pledge is now part of the Federal Flag Code passed by Congress on July 7, 1976. It can only be changed by proclamation of the President of the United States as Commander-in-Chief of the military.

The text of the Pledge is below.

*I pledge allegiance to the flag
of the United States of America
and to the Republic for which it stands,
one Nation under God, indivisible,
with liberty and justice for all.*

Define these words from the Pledge:

★ **pledge**

★ **allegiance**

★ **republic**

★ **indivisible**

★ **liberty**

★ **justice**